



SENT BY EMAIL (25 November 2022)

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 November 2022 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

Excited to see your website about counselling in schools . Just wondering if you could tell me how many children see counsellors through this project annually in Christchurch and also nation wide

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The Awhi Mai, Awhi Atu / Counselling in Schools (CiS) initiative does not record the number of children seen by counsellors. The service does not simply run one-to-one sessions – these can also be small group or class sessions, or whole school support can be provided as required.

As a result, your request for this information is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by the Ministry, and I have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or organisation subject to the Act.

Instead of recording the number of students who receive CiS, the number of counselling sessions provided through CiS is recorded. Table 1 below provides this information, nationally and for the Canterbury region. Please note we do not have annual data yet, as numbers for October 2022 are still being confirmed and CiS launched in November 2021.

Table 1: CiS counselling hours delivered Nationally and in Canterbury, by month

Month	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22
Nationally	769	1,087	1,270	2,760	2,885	1,930	5,065	3,551	2,502	4,382	4,883
Canterbury	67	70	0	100	100	11	77	52	42	82	104

CiS is offered in a small number of schools in South Canterbury. It is not offered in all Canterbury schools, as CiS runs in conjunction with [Mana Ake](#) in the Canterbury region. The ability for schools to access support through Mana Ake was a consideration when CiS was set up in the Canterbury region.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

Enquiries National

Sent by email